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I.

EFFECTS OF POSTURE ON THE PULSE IN HEALTH AND DIS- EASE.

It is known that considerable variety, both in strength and frequency of pulse, is observed in the erect, the sedentary, and recumbent postures. Dr. Thomson, of Edinburgh, first pointed out some of these differences from an extensive series of accurate observations; and these were confirmed by Dr. Stroud, in the numerous experiments made by him on the patients of the clinical wards in the years 1816 and 1817. Unaware of these experiments apparently, Dr. Graves has, with extreme diligence, devoted himself to the observation of the varieties of the pulse, not only in the erect and recumbent posture, but in the inverted, with the feet above and the head dependant. The author found, however, that this position produced much less effect than he anticipated. The frequency of the pulse in this position was neither retarded nor accelerated; but its strength was diminished, sometimes very considerably, and occasionally it became very irregular: a circumstance which Dr. G. is inclined to ascribe to the weight of the column of blood pressing on the aortic valves, and thus augmenting the impediment to its exit from the ventricle.

Dr. Graves found the pulse less frequent, from six to fifteen beats in the minute, and stronger, in the horizontal than in the erect posture; and he infers, that in this position its maximum of strength and minimum of frequency are at once attained. This fact he thinks may explain the relief obtained by placing patients in the horizontal position in order to avoid fainting, for instance, that produced by venesection. This, however, with deference to the author, we must be permitted to question. Syncope from venesection is doubtless occasioned by the blood being so suddenly drawn off, that there is no longer a sufficient quantity left to excite the action of the heart; and it is with equal certainty obviated by placing the patient in that position, in which, while the blood is drained from the inferior vessels, it may, by being gradually allowed to flow from the superior ones, still be adequate to excite the heart.

In all diseases, except six cases of hypertrophy with dilatation of the heart, Dr. Graves found the pulse to differ in frequency in the erect, sitting and horizontal postures. In four of these six cases, the fact of hypertrophy with dilatation was ascertained by inspection; and of the other two, in one it was certain during life, and in the other was at least probable. It would be doubtless premature to

speculate on the cause of this peculiarity, until the phenomenon has been observed in a greater number of cases. We conclude our account of this paper by subjoining the general conclusions, which Dr. G. thinks may be established from an extensive number of observations.

"1. That the greatest difference occurs in patients laboring under fever, or in a debilitated state, in consequence of fever or any other cause. It may amount to thirty, forty, or even fifty, between the horizontal and erect postures.

"2. That this difference decreases after the first quarter of an hour, in most cases, but always remains considerable as long as the same position is observed.

"3. That in persons not much debilitated, the difference is much less than that stated above, and often does not amount to more than ten.

"4. That, when the patient lies down, the pulse rapidly falls to its former standard.

"5. That in some the frequency is greater between the horizontal and sitting posture, than between the latter and the erect; while in others the contrary takes place, so that generally the frequency of the sitting posture may be taken as a mean.

"In persons convalescent from fever or acute diseases, I find it is extremely useful to the physician to ascertain the comparative frequency of the pulse in the horizontal and erect position. The greater the difference, the greater is the debility of the patient; and, consequently, the more guarded must his medical attendant be in allowing him to sit for any length of time, particularly if the pulse, on his lying down, does not resume its usual degree of frequency."—*Edinburgh Med. and Surg. Journ.*

II.

LITHONTRIPTY.

THE following is the first operation, we believe, of the kind, ever performed in this country—and we derive the record of it from the *New York Med. Journal*.

Mr. B., aged sixty-one years, of a lymphatico-sanguine temperament, remarkably corpulent, consulted me some time in the month of October, 1830. The patient had many symptoms which led him to suspect the existence of a stone in the bladder; the most convincing proof with him was, that, for many years previously, he had frequently passed many urinary calculi. Some of these had been sufficiently large to remain for some days in the urethra, but he managed to disengage them without having recourse to surgical aid. Within a few months he had observed, that while passing his urine, the jet would be suddenly interrupted. The bladder certainly contained more urine, for the desire to pass more still continued. It was evident to me that there still existed a calculus in the bladder, and a silver sound, which I introduced immediately, justified the prognosis.

The patient, more anxious for the future than actually suffering from the disease, was naturally desirous of being released from his complaint. Lithotomy was not to be had recourse to, and the patient declared he would rather die than submit to that operation.

I proposed Lithontripty, and it was readily acceded to. In order to perform this operation, I could only obtain an instrument with a handle (*lithontriteur a manivelle*) which is very imperfect and feeble in its operation; but as the calculus was of no great size, I supposed that this instrument would suffice.

The bladder having been previously injected with tepid water, I introduced the instrument, and soon seized the calculus, the size of which I estimated to be about fourteen lines in its greatest diameter. As soon as the drill touched it, it appeared to be hard, and gave out a sound sharp enough to be heard distinctly by the patient himself, and by those who were present during the operation. As I soon discovered that the drill acted very slowly upon the stone, I suspended the operation, and resumed it, a few days afterwards, with a new drill, which, however, did not wear away the calculus much faster than the first. After each of these operations, I was encouraged by observing that the patient passed considerable quantities of fragments of stone.

The incomplete success of these two attempts, induced me to cause to be made an apparatus like that of M. Civiale; and on the 29th of November, I again introduced the instrument.

The calculus was seized two different times, and was perforated through its whole substance, on both occasions, with a drill three lines in diameter. The operation lasted fifteen minutes, and did not occasion the least pain. Upon withdrawing the instrument, the patient passed with his urine a whitish powder, mixed with fragments of different sizes, among which I noticed one about the size of a pea. The patient felt, during the remainder of the day, some inconvenience from being frequently compelled to pass his water, and each time it was accompanied with small fragments of the calculus. Emollient enemata, and mucilaginous drinks, so rapidly subdued this irritation, that the patient wish-

ed the operation to be repeated a few days afterwards. As a matter of precaution, I did not, however, resume it until the 8th of December.

On this occasion, I experienced much difficulty in endeavoring to seize the calculus. It escaped twice, just as I was about to make it secure. I finally succeeded in seizing it, and from the extent of the dilatation of the arms of the instrument, I was satisfied that I had it in an entirely new position. By cautious management, I was enabled to drill it throughout in three different places; and when I had finished the last drill, the dilatation of the arms of my instrument indicated a diameter of five lines. The whole time consumed in this operation lasted forty minutes. As in the preceding essays, the patient was merely fatigued from his position, and experienced no pain. When the instrument was withdrawn, he passed his urine, with an abundant discharge of fragments, some of which were as large as those which I have already noticed.

During this operation, I collected but a small quantity of the debris of the calculus, and only some of the larger fragments; and notwithstanding the gradual diminution of the arms of the instrument, I thought that fragments of the stone might still remain. The symptoms of the disease had never been violent, the desire to pass water continued, and although the urine flowed with an uninterrupted stream, yet my impressions were strong that the stone had not entirely disappeared. To ascertain this, I made three explorations in the course of fifteen days, with the arms of the instrument widely extended, and continued my researches with the greatest minuteness,

without finding the least trace of any foreign body whatever. In the course of a few days, I had the satisfaction of seeing the health of my patient perfectly restored; and he assures me that he feels nothing of his former disease.

III.

REPORT OF A CASE TERMINATING FATALLY FROM THE LOCAL AP- PLICATION OF THE CORROSIVE SUBLIMATE IN THE CURE OF A SPECIES OF TETTER (HERPES EXEDENS).

By Dr. ALLEN KIMBALL, of Appling,
Columbia Co., Georgia.

NOT long since, I was called, at a late hour of the night, to see Miss —, aged about 12 years. When I arrived, I received from the mother a brief narrative to this effect:—That her daughter had been affected for a considerable time with tetter: being over-solicitous to have it cured, that she might be at school, she applied to a physician, who promised a ready cure by the corros. sublimate. The ointment was prepared, and she obtained it early that morning. She had previously received verbal directions to apply a portion the size of a large pea. By parting the hair in different places, the whole scalp was found to be almost entirely covered with a lamous eruption: and she supposed, from the loose manner in which the directions were given, that there was no danger in the article, and that the directions went for the application to every part of the head much affected. At 9 o'clock of that day, she parted the hair in different directions, and freely applied, by the finger, the unguent. A few minutes only had elapsed, before the

child began to "cry" of the most insufferable heat and burning, which were followed, in less than half an hour, by nausea, sick stomach, and vomiting, and threatened with convulsions, from excess of pain. Laudanum was given freely, and sinapisms to the gastric region and extremities, with scarcely temporary ease. The mother states, that she applied forthwith to the Dr., but received assurances that the effects were only temporary. (I have been told on the ground that there were no absorbents of the head). When I saw the child (12 o'clock at night), she had short intervals of ease and tranquillity, frequent vomiting, particularly if any fluid was taken into the stomach. Her head was immediately shaved, and washed thoroughly with warm soap and water: warm starch poultices were the only application that gave much relief. From nine in the morning until the same hour in the evening, she passed upwards of one hundred ounces of urine; the pulse was frequent and small; she had no other urinary evacuation until the fourth evening, which was very scanty, and continued so until her death. The third day from the application, blood passed off freely per anum, and increased daily: all the glands of the jaws, &c., were swelled, with a strong mercurial fetor of the breath. These symptoms became more inveterate, accompanied with great thirst, soreness of the abdomen, &c., until the 7th day, when it terminated fatally. The mother used only the index finger in the application of the ointment, except the washing of the head about fifteen hours after. I do not know the strength of the ointment: she states that it produced a sensation to the touch like sand. About three grains were rubbed on of the

preparation. She (the mother) was deeply salivated, exhibiting all the usual symptoms of a general ptyalism, which disappeared under the customary course of remedies.

This case presents two lamentable circumstances—that of negligence, and rashness. I do not say this with the fear of contradiction; for I am warranted in the assertion, that every member of the medical profession is not, virtually, a member of a temperance society, and it is sorely to be regretted that too many of us are addicted to habits of intemperance.

The great Gregory says "temperance and sobriety are virtues peculiarly required in a physician. I have heard it said of some eminent physicians, that they prescribed as justly when drunk, as when sober. If there was any truth in this report, it contains a severe reflection against their abilities in their profession. It shows that they practise by rote," &c. "Drunkenness implies a defect in the memory and judgment. It implies confusion of ideas, perplexity, and unsteadiness," &c. It is due the efficacy of this medicine to say, that several inveterate cases have been thoroughly cured, in this vicinity, by the spirituous and aqueous solution, judiciously applied several times daily. It should never be forgotten, that all the drastic poisonous medicines require to be prescribed cautiously, not only with a regard to the quantity, but to the age, strength, and constitution of the patient. Of all classes of professional men, sobriety, discretion and caution, are more required in the practitioner of medicine. The life of his fellow-creature is constantly at his disposal;—mistake, or design, sends them from whence no traveller returns. It is to be

regretted that the general consent of mankind will not recognise drunkenness and dissipation as a forfeiture of the medical man's profession.

Western Journ. of Med.

IV.

NOTICE OF THE HOOPING COUGH AND MEASLES APPEARING TOGETHER IN THE SAME PATIENT, AS IT OCCURRED AT NEWPORT AND ITS VICINITY, HERKIMER CO., N. Y.

By A. B. BOWEN, M.D.

THE spring of 1830, in the vicinity of Herkimer County, was uncommonly mild and pleasant, so that, by the last of April, vegetation was nearly two weeks in advance of the seasons. This was checked, however, about the first of May, by one of those sudden changes of weather, so peculiar to the northern and middle States, from warm and pleasant to cold and wet, which latter state continued until the middle of June.

Hooping cough prevailed extensively at Newport, as early as the middle of April, but did not spread much in the country around, till some weeks later,—attacking, in its course, almost every individual susceptible of the contagion. There was no peculiarity attending the complaint, or distinguishing it from common pertussis, other than the severity of its symptoms—viz., high fever, distressing cough, almost to suffocation, attended with the whoop, and, in several instances, terminating in epileptic convulsions.

In May, measles made its appearance, attacking a great many of the little patients laboring under cough. In most instances, the active symptoms of the latter complaint had subsided, previous to

the measles setting in ; and in all with which I was acquainted, the cough commenced first.

The attack of measles was usually ushered in by the common premonitory symptoms, and speedily followed by oppression and laborious respiration, arterial excitement, dyspnoea, livid countenance, eruption, and attended with paroxysms of pertussis, aggravated, and distinct from the hoarse cough of measles. We give one case—a fair specimen of many.

July 4th.—Called, 5 o'clock this morning, to see a child of Mrs. K. A. E., aged 13 months, in convulsions, after a distressing fit of coughing. Attacked about the middle of June : cough dry ; stomach irritable ; tongue covered with a light brown fur ; pulse frequent, not hard or wiry ; surface, particularly the extremities, cold ; bowels costive.

Warm bath relieved the convulsions. Ordered cal. 6 grs., followed in two hours by ol. R.

5th.—Cal. operated slightly ; oil not given ; she had considerable fever through the night, but less this morning. Ordered the cal. and ol. R. repeated. Afternoon, another convulsion ; cath. had not operated : gave a tablespoonful of ol. R., which brought away dark fetid stools in abundance.

6th.—Child better : ordered ol. R. next day, and left.

26th.—Called again : found her broke out with measles ; had coughed as often as once in an hour or two, since 6th inst., but not alarmingly ; eyes red and suffused ; had hot and burning skin ; hoarse cough, with dyspnoea and frequent paroxysms of pertussis, distinct and severe ; pulse full, hard, and frequent. Bled her 3 oz. in the jugular vein, which relieved her breathing, and

gave her an emetic, which threw off much bilious matter, mixed with mucus.

27th.—Paroxysms of cough and dyspnoea more distressing, with much hoarse cough and fever : opened her bowels with ol. R., and put her into a warm bath, which relieved her breathing a little ; increased again this afternoon, and the system evidently giving way ; died at 2 o'clock, A.M.

The commencement and course of this case, was similar to a considerable number of others which came within my observation. Where the system was not too much worn out by the first disease, the termination was in most instances favorable ; but, as in this case, when the cough had been of much duration, or when the excitability of the system was worn out from its severity, the complaint was almost surely fatal.

How far these cases go to contradict the observation of the celebrated Mr. Hunter, viz., that two diseases cannot exist together in the same patient, it is perhaps difficult to determine. At first, I could not regard it but as a complete refutation of that doctrine. On reflection, however, I came to the conclusion, that whatever of a *specific* nature there was in the cough, had exerted its influence, and, if the phrase be allowed, spent itself upon the system previous to the attack of measles ; that the distinct paroxysms of cough were the sequelæ of whooping cough, kept up by habit, and not the immediate effect of the specific agent. In a number of cases where the patients recovered, and all appearance of measles subsided, the cough was kept up for months after, as is common after pertussis.

It may not be improper, although

aside from the object of this notice, to mention, in this place, a remedy which was resorted to for the cure of this sequel of pertussis, with happy effect in almost every instance in which it was used—viz., *Fol. conii*, either in the form of powder or pills, given in grain doses to children, and increasing it until some effect upon the system is produced.—*Ib.*

V.

HERPES CURED IN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS BY THE APPLICATION OF NITRATE OF SILVER.

AN old man, about 80, of vigorous constitution but impaired mind, was admitted into the French Hospital La Pitié, January 4th. He had sharp pain about the abdomen, and general indisposition, but gave an extremely indistinct account of himself; saying, among other things, that he had received a fall. On examining him, no appearance of bruise was perceptible, but an eruption of bullæ was seen occupying the whole of the left side. M. Lisfranc immediately applied the nitrate of silver to these.

Next day, all the cauterized points were covered with greyish eschars; and the day following, all uneasiness had entirely disappeared. The eschars dropped off about the eighth day.

VI.

THE VARIETIES OF BREAD.

For the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

WE proposed, in continuing our remarks on this subject, to advert to the different articles to which this term has been applied.

Wheaten Bread.—Of wheaten

or flour bread, as it is very frequently termed among us, enough perhaps has been said, as the phenomena which it presents furnish the materials of the description above given. It is this which may be regarded as bread par excellence; since, by its whiteness, lightness, and perfect adaptation to the demands of the human stomach, it surpasses all others. It is this which forms the corn of the greatest proportion of the inhabitants of Europe; and in this country, wherever wheat can be cultivated, it constitutes the favorite grain. Even where it refuses itself to the soil, it is obtained by commerce, to the comparative neglect of the indigenous grains; and there is little doubt, that, were we compelled to obtain our wheat, as we do the fragrant herb which constitutes our evening repast, from beyond the ocean, they would still be, as they now are, inseparable companions.

But without entering more fully into the praises of this valuable esculent, we will advert to some varieties in its fabrication which have exerted considerable influence on its aspect and its qualities. The principal of these depends on the state of the flour, as separated or not, by the process of bolting, from the bran or fragments of the investing membrane. The usual division of bread, founded on this circumstance, is into white, wheaten, and household. In the white bread, the bran is entirely removed; in wheaten bread, there is a mixture of the flour and the finer bran; and that which is technically termed household, includes the whole substance of the grain. It is to this last substance that the term dyspepsia bread has been applied; in fact, the bran thus united with the bread produces a medicinal influ-

ence, which, in some states of the system, is highly salutary. This bread, however, contains much less nutrition within the same volume, than that of the sifted flour, and it has been even concluded, from experiment, that the bran lessens the nutritive power of the wheat with which it is combined; so that a pound of bread without bran, is said to nourish more than a pound and a quarter where the bran remains.

Bread of Maize, or Indian Bread.—The process of preparing this does not materially differ from that of fabricating bread from wheat flour; and as the details are probably known as well to most of our readers as to ourselves, we shall not minutely describe them. On account of the inferior degree of consistence in this bread, it is not convenient to place the masses in the oven without some enclosure to preserve their form. It is not unusual to interpose between the pans and the paste some membranous substance, like a dried leaf, which renders it easy to remove the loaves. This may be done when the bread is partially baked, so as to possess sufficient consistence to maintain the figure. The baking will thus be more promptly effected and more thorough. Maize, however, is seldom employed alone in the manufacture of bread. In consequence of the want of gluten, the article thus produced is clammy and compact; deficient in lightness, and not easily digested. It has also the inconvenience of moulding sooner than white bread, at the same temperature, and under similar circumstances.

A more grateful variety of this article is obtained by adding to maize a certain proportion of wheat

flour. In this case, it is said that a dough should be made with the flour, and allowed to ferment in part before the meal is added. This bread, which we commonly call flour and Indian, is of a light yellow color, and porous, with a crust somewhat less brittle than that of flour bread. It retains its moisture, under similar circumstances, for a longer time than the last article, and, in common with it, is more digestible on the second day than the first.

Under both these forms, maize serves for the aliment of a numerous population, both here and in Europe. In persons accustomed to the use of flour bread, the sudden adoption of this is accompanied with unpleasant effects, on account of the increased stimulus it affords to the coats of the *primæ viæ*. This effect, however, in many circumstances, is very salutary; and a change from the exclusive use of flour to that of the mixed grain, when the bowels have become costive, will often be attended with the happiest effects. To persons accustomed to its use, it is simply nutritious, and is fully adequate to perform its share in contributing to vigor and longevity. In a memoir lately read to the French Academy, the author undertook to show that maize was more conducive to health than any other grain; and as a proof of this proposition, the fact was adduced, that in one of the departments in which this grain was most abundantly and universally employed, the inhabitants were remarkable for health and vigor.

Rye Bread.—Rye differs in its composition from wheat flour, in being more abundant in extractive matter, in containing less starch, and being nearly destitute of gluten.

The sensible qualities of its farina, when fine ground and bolted, are, to be soft to the touch, of a yellowish white color, and an odor resembling that of the violet, which is one standard of its goodness. When employed alone, it requires the addition of a considerable proportion of salt, not so much to improve its flavor as to give to it the necessary viscosity, without which it would be unfit to be subjected to the process of panification. Some other precautions are also used in baking it, as that of applying heat suddenly at first, and then allowing the process to go on more moderately. When duly prepared, it is savory and nourishing, and, in the north of Europe, forms the ordinary diet of almost all classes.

With us, rye is generally employed in the manufacture of bread as an auxiliary to maize; and the compound furnished, though less attractive in appearance than those hitherto mentioned, has an agreeable sweet taste, and, under the name of brown bread, is extensively used in town and country. But unless very judiciously prepared, it is heavy and clammy, and should be used with moderation by those accustomed to a different diet.

Another combination of rye which has been found to yield a very useful product, is with the flour of wheat, in the proportion of two parts of the former to two or three of the latter. In this, as in all the combinations into which flour enters, it is best employed to make the leaven, and the rye, moistened with water, is worked in after the fermentation has commenced. This kind of bread is described as very savory and nutritious, and holds the next rank to that which is made of wheat and maize. In common with the article last mentioned, it

has the property of keeping several days without losing its lightness, which renders it peculiarly advantageous for the use of families in the country, who cannot procure daily supplies from a baker, and to whom frequent bakings would be inconvenient and troublesome.

Barley Bread.—Barley, though abounding in starch more than any other grain, if we except wheat, is not well fitted for the production of bread. Fermentation is readily produced, but the result is a compound sour to the taste, and so compact as scarce to deserve the name. Notwithstanding these repulsive qualities, barley bread has, in all ages, been made subservient to the nourishment of man. It answers, however, much better, when this grain is employed, to combine it with others better adapted to this process. By taking equal parts of wheat, rye, and barley, forming a dough of the first, and adding the two other farinas when fermentation has commenced, a bread may be obtained of sufficiently good quality, and withal more economical, under most circumstances, than that afforded by the two first, either separate or combined. In this country, however, barley, when used as an article of diet, is principally employed in solution in the form of gruel.

Oaten Bread.—Oatmeal, though very useful in other forms as an article of diet, offers but very limited facilities for the composition of bread. When mixed with water, the compound produced is dense and viscid, and these qualities are little improved by the process of fermentation. There is also a nauseous bitter taste developed by this substance

during the process of baking, which no modification of the process employed has been found capable of removing.

Notwithstanding these unpleasant qualities, oaten bread has at times been employed, when its employment has become indispensable from the want of better material, and has been found to yield a nourishing, though not very palatable article of food.

But where rye or barley can be procured, the use of oatmeal for bread is neither economical nor useful; its proper employment is in solution as a gruel, in which form it is often a useful substitute for more solid nutriment.

Buckwheat Bread.—The farina of this grain requires as much labor to be converted into bread as that of barley. The leaven employed must be fresh, and in considerable quantity, and the paste very thoroughly kneaded. The baking must also be continued for a longer time than in barley bread; the paste is more clammy, and acquires with more difficulty a proper consistence. After all precautions are taken, however, this kind of bread is of bad quality. The day after baking, it dries and crumbles so as to be unfit for use.

We have thus briefly noticed most of those compounds to which, being formed from the farinas of the various species of grain, the name of bread may with propriety be applied. It remains to consider some other substances of which it has been attempted to fabricate bread, but which are not capable of undergoing those changes that are essential to its formation; and I may possibly, Mr. Editor, trouble you

with a few remarks on those substances at some future time, should my inquiries respecting them lead to any useful or interesting results.

SILENUS.

MEDICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, MAY 17, 1831.

SULPHUREOUS FUMIGATIONS.

IN pursuance of the object stated in our last, we commence with an account of the trial made by Dr. Bardsley, at the Manchester Infirmary, of the Sulphur Bath, in diseases of the skin and of some other textures.

The extreme obstinacy of a large number of the diseases which pertain to the cutaneous tissue,—their ordinary connection with causes it is difficult to remove, and if removed, still more difficult to avoid in future,—and the length of time they have generally existed before application is made for relief, render it very desirable to add some safe and effectual remedy to those already in common use among the faculty. In no instance within our knowledge, has so thorough and extensive an experiment been made of sulphur fumigation as a means of curing such diseases, as that an account of which is contained in the report of Dr. B. Within the last five years, more than 3000 patients have been subjected to this remedy, and the number of baths given to each has varied from 10 to over 300. The Report sets forth, in satisfactory detail, "the happy results attending the practice." Bad effects have sometimes ensued from its employment, but

most of these are attributed to inattention in the selection of cases,—or to the co-existence with the cutaneous affection, of some pulmonary or gastric disorder, leucorrhœa, or other complaint, which may be aggravated, rather than relieved by it.

On the other hand, there are some derangements of other organs than the skin, which, so far from forbidding the use of the sulphur bath, invite us strongly to its employment. In some obstinate cases of *amenorrhœa*, the discharge was found, by Dr. B., to return during the use of fumigation. In like manner has it proved curative of *sciatica*, *local palsy*, *scrofulous affections of the joints*, *obstinate ulcers of the lower extremities*, *indolent tumors*, *glandular enlargements*, and other complaints of chronic character. Acute diseases were generally found to be aggravated by it.

In two cases of *Diabetes*, a faithful trial of the sulphur bath was made by Dr. B. In one of these cases, which is related in the report, the patient, a young man of 24, had labored under diabetic symptoms for more than six months, and for the last nine had been under treatment at the hospital La Charité at Paris. He made 26 pints of urine daily. After a short course of laxatives, he was subjected to the sulphur bath every second day; and it is equally surprising and gratifying to see, by the table annexed to the case, the uniform diminution of this quantity, which was effected by the treatment. December 2d, it was 26 pints—February 25th, it was but 2 pints. On the 17th of March, he was discharg-

ed in the enjoyment of good health, and returned to his native France and to his former occupation of a manufacturer.

Of 40 cases of *Chronic Rheumatism* from two months to twenty-four years duration, 30 were cured, 7 were relieved, and the remaining 3 were obliged to discontinue the bath.

The particular diseases of the skin in which it was employed with success by Dr. Bardsley, are—

1. *Scabies*.—In this, the sulphur bath is universally acknowledged to be the most elegant and least disagreeable remedy, and Dr. B. found it by far the most successful. "I have always seen," says he, "the most obstinate and neglected cases of it yield very speedily to a few fumigations." To this we can add the testimony of our own experience—having never failed to cure the disease effectually and speedily by a few baths properly and thoroughly administered.

2. *Impetigo*.—In this very common and troublesome affection, which resists, as most other cutaneous diseases do, the long catalogue of popular or rather vulgar remedies, as sarsaparilla, dulcamara, pyrola, dock-root, &c., very marked advantage resulted from the sulphur fumigation. It should never be employed, however, until any signs of acute inflammation in the skin have been subdued by leeches and fomentations locally, and general depletion in the few cases in which such resort is indispensable. In that species of the disease termed by Willan *Impetigo Scabida*, this remedy has proved especially beneficial.

3. *Porriigo*.—In most of the forms of this disease, the bath was found useful. But as it usually occurs in situations where the fumes cannot be conveniently retained, and readily yields to other treatment, it can scarcely be considered as worth while to give it a trial.

4. *Prurigo*.—In whatever form or situation it appears, no local remedy is so agreeable to the patient, or so sure to remove his disease, as that now under consideration. But be it this or any other, the use of gentle aperients and cooling diet is alike indispensable to a permanent removal of the disease.

5. *Lepa*.—Of 40 cases of leprosy treated at the Infirmary by the sulphur bath, 29 were cured, and 11 more or less relieved. To the use of this remedy in lepra and other scaly diseases, the author seems particularly desirous of calling the attention of the profession. "My experience of its high value," says he, "leads me to recommend it as a remedy infinitely superior to every other in those obstinate affections." Besides the cases of lepra above referred to, Dr. B. gives an account of four, which occurred in his private practice, in each of which a cure was effected by the sulphureous fumigations *alone*; although all of them were confirmed cases. In his hands, this remedy was equally successful in that which is among us the most common of all cutaneous diseases, viz.

6. *Psoriasis*.—20 patients, suffering under this disease, received the bath at the Infirmary. Of these, 14 were perfectly cured, 5 were relieved, and 1 found it necessary to discontinue it.

In addition to these he says, "I have the authority of an eminent member of the bar for stating, that after an *ineffectual* trial of various remedies, both in London and the country, for the removal of an obstinate psoriatic disease, he obtained a cure by a persevering employment of the sulphur bath."

7. *Icthyosis*.—This disease, most fortunately of rare occurrence, yielded to the fumigations, and to these alone, in the practice of Dr. B. He appears, in this and other scaly affections, to have given a full trial to ordinary remedies. Where the bath was used simultaneously with these medicines, the complaint yielded no more readily, than where the fumigations alone were depended on. Still we should deem it unwise to trust to their sole agency in all cases, or to expect, in private practice, that so large a proportion as he has given, would yield to such treatment. The persevering use of acknowledged alteratives, should, in our opinion, accompany that of the bath. Of the two, Dr. B. appears to have found the unaided efforts of the former much less successful, than the latter when administered alone.

8. *Pompholyx*.—The bath was adopted in only two cases of this disease, and in both it proved serviceable. As an example, we will offer the details of one of these cases in the author's own words.

John Smethurst, 15 years of age, was admitted as an out-patient of mine on the 13th of June, 1826. His mother stated that the vesications made their appearance shortly after bathing, whilst the body was much heated from violent exercise.

He was first seized with rather severe febrile symptoms, which were removed by the aid of venesection, purgatives, and diaphoretics. The vesications were chiefly confined to the inferior extremities, though many were present on the face and trunk. With a view to their removal, I directed my chief attention to the state of the boy's bowels, prescribing Plummer's pill at bed time, and a gentle aperient in the morning. During the day, he used the decoctum sarsaparillæ compositum, and entered the warm bath every other night. This plan was steadily pursued for more than five weeks, but with very little benefit; for no sooner had some of the bullæ discharged their lymph and healed, than others either reappeared in their place, or arose in fresh parts of the body. I now directed him to enter the sulphur bath every morning, and to discontinue his former remedies. Smethurst received fifty-four baths, when he was discharged perfectly well.

In the 17th volume of the Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal, a case of pompholyx is related in the report of the Royal London and Westminster Infirmary for Diseases of the Skin, which was cured by the use of the sulphureous vapor bath. "One among many remarkable and instructive cases (says Dr. Emerson), the medical officers wish to bring under your notice. It was an inveterate instance of the pompholyx, which had resisted the various treatments several hospitals. It occurred in a young girl. Her sufferings were not to be described, but by

the use of the bath and some internal medicines she now enjoys a comparative degree of health and comfort; and her tender age renders it extremely probable, that the cure may be as permanent as it has been satisfactory."

It appears to us that the great fault among general practitioners who have assayed this remedy, has been a want of perseverance in its use. Ten or a dozen baths are considered a fair trial in almost any case; but in truth there are few, very few, instances of disease, so mild as to yield to so short a series. In ordinary cases, the itch may be cured by this summary process; but with this exception, we should not dare promise amendment even, till twenty had been tried, or think of being discouraged if fifty failed of conquering the disease. The great secret of the success of Dr. B., is his perseverance in the use of his remedy; and those, we apprehend, who follow him in this respect, will be most likely to be rewarded by similar results.

The next difficulty in the way, is the careless manner in which the remedy is administered by unprofessional persons. Women who know nothing of the nature of the disease to be cured, and little more of the nature of the remedy, are, or certainly have been, entrusted with the management of these baths. This is very wrong. It is a powerful application—requires judgment—carefulness—knowledge. "It must be recollected," says Dr. B., "that this method of cure requires both caution and discrimination;" and which of these can be expected in a female

who is ignorant of the disease, the remedy, and its *modus operandi*.

Another obstacle in the way of a full and frequent use of this bath is, the want of a convenient apparatus for administering it. The old sulphur baths were clumsy and inconvenient, and the profession and the public are greatly indebted to Mr. Wallace, Surgeon to the Skin Infirmary in Dublin, for his improvements on this machine. But even these have still their imperfections.

Deterred chiefly by the foregoing circumstances from advising sulphureous fumigations so frequently as we desired in private practice, we caused, a few years ago, a neat and extremely convenient apparatus for this purpose to be constructed; and having since been in the habit of applying it personally to a large number of patients, we have fully tested its advantages over those, more bulky and expensive, which come to us from abroad. We are all, it is true, apt to appreciate too highly the results of our own industry and our own ingenuity;—but when those results have been put to the test of direct and repeated experiment, we may be allowed to judge of their value with a greater degree of accuracy. Having enjoyed these facilities, then, for the employment of sulphur fumigations,—removed from the objections to their use, which have already been alluded to, we can readily accord to the accuracy of the observations of Dr. B., although we have seldom employed them to the same extent in any individual case, or found them equally

capable of removing chronic and long and obstinate cases of lepra and psoriasis without the aid of internal remedies.

To those who are desirous of further information on the subject of this bath and its value as a medical agent, we recommend the short essay of Sir Arthur Clarke, and the observations of Mr. Wallace.

THOMSON'S LECTURES ON INFLAMMATION.

THIS most excellent and standard work from the pen of the learned and indefatigable Dr. Thomson, of Edinburgh, has already undergone several editions in Great Britain, and we are happy to see a second American edition from the press of Carey & Lea, of Philadelphia. In no work within our knowledge, are the phenomena of inflammation so ably and clearly and accurately described, as in this; in none are its various causes so fully set forth, or its different modes of termination, and the means of promoting either of them, so judiciously discussed. To much study, Dr. T. has added active and extensive personal observation, and he has brought into this volume a great amount of practical intelligence respecting the treatment of every form of inflammatory disease, as well as a lucid view of the general pathological doctrines of medical surgery.

NEW PHARMACOPŒIA.

SOME time ago we gave a history of the two irregular conventions held, the one at New York and the other at Washington, for the purpose of

revising the American Pharmacopœia of 1820. The issue of the first of these bodies has already been peddled about the country. The production of the last is now before the profession. To the formation of this latter, has been devoted much talent and learning, persevering research, and unsparing attention. It is built on the original work; it is, in fact, the original work amended and improved, brought up to the present advanced state of science, and adapted to the present condition of the profession. There are some errors in the original edition which seem not to have been corrected in this, and some changes have been made which appear to us injudicious,—such, e. g., as reducing, one half, the strength of the wine of antimony, and, one quarter, the liniment of ammonia;—the former certainly vinous enough before, and the latter, if anything, requiring strength and not reduction. The omission of many popular synonyms, such as Epsom salt, Glauber's salt, &c., seem to us injudicious. Other faults of this work might be pointed out, all which tend to show, not perhaps that the edition is still imperfect, so much as the difficulty of constructing a Pharmacopœia which will suit all tastes and the actual or imaginary wants of all practitioners.

We congratulate the faculty in having presented to them a work which is, on the whole, so great an improvement of the original edition, and, so far as we can judge, much superior to any other book of the kind, either foreign or American; and when it is remembered that the

labor of preparation has been bestowed gratuitously, as well as ably, by distinguished and learned men, the thanks of the profession, as well as its approval, will doubtless be generally bestowed. As, however, there is another work, between which and that of which we have spoken it remains for the faculty to decide, and as the subject will shortly be brought officially before the Massachusetts Medical Society, it is hoped that practitioners in this part of the country will wait for a fair and open canvass of the merits of both, before adopting either as a standard.

MAGNETISM A REMEDY IN VARIOUS DISEASES.

THE following is the substance of a note transmitted by Dr. Keil to the French Institute, at its sitting of the 20th of September, and published in the *Journal de Chimie Médicale*. The Doctor has discovered a mode of preparing magnets much more powerful than any other hitherto in use. The strongest magnets before known were not capable of supporting more than 40 kilogrammes (about 107 lbs. troy), and weighed themselves from 40 to 45 kilogrammes. That exhibited by the author to the Academy, had a power of 150 kilogrammes, and weighed only 20.

In his practice as a physician in Germany, Dr. Keil has made numerous experiments with very strong magnets; and has obtained the most happy results in a multitude of *nervous* diseases, which had resisted the ordinary therapeutical methods. By simply passing his magnets over the parts affected, he has succeeded in curing *gout, tic douloureux, recent and chronic rheumatic pains, epilepsy, spasms in the stomach, whooping cough, nervous weakness, rheumatic deafness, swelling of the cervical*

glands, menstrual irregularities, headache, convulsive muscular contractions, and toothach. We give the list exactly as we find it.

As magnetism acts only upon the nervous system, it is without effect when the disease depends upon organic lesion. The author has also sometimes, but very rarely, found it ineffectual where no lesion was apparent.

Numerous acute nervous diseases cease instantaneously upon the employment of the magnet. In chronic cases, it is often necessary to repeat the application once or twice a day, for several days. Should the disease resist the remedy for a month, a cure by the magnet is hopeless.

In healthy individuals, uneasy sensations, and even vomiting, may be produced by passing the magnet over the surface in suitable directions.—*N. A. Med. and Surg. Journ.*

Pressure substituted for Ligature of the Arteries in Amputations.—Dr. Sper has informed the Academy that Mr. Segand, a naval surgeon, amputated the thigh not long ago, and restrained the hemorrhage by making pressure on the axis of the artery, as recommended by Kock. The patient on whom he operated, died a few days afterwards of an accidental complaint. On examination, he found that the vessel was

free in all its extent, and contained the rudiments of fibrous coagula.—*Bul. des Sc. Med.*

Spontaneous Salivation.—Dr. F. Petrunti attended a noblewoman, who labored under different affections, and had taken, by his advice, first, strychnine, then Dover's powder, hyosciamus, and ipecacuanha. In two months from the commencement of her illness, she became so excessively salivated, that, for a week, she daily discharged nearly two pounds of saliva. Dr. Petrunti believed that this affection depended upon a morbid action of the nerves.

Observatore Medico.

Lunatic Asylum.—The work on the site of this projected edifice, which was suspended during the winter, is now resumed, and a longlive foundation stone of hewn granite already tells the observer of the extent and beauty of the future edifice. The generous spirit and lively interest with which such works are accomplished among us, form but a poor argument for the utter depravity of our race.

Whole number of deaths in Boston the week ending May 7th, 21. Males, 9—Females, 11. Stillborn, 1.

Of consumption, 3—burn, 6—dropsy, 2—paralysis, 1—suicide, 1—unknown, 3—hooping cough, 1—intemperance, 1—dropsy on the brain, 1.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

GREAT SYMPATHETIC NERVE. By J. P. Manec, D.M.P., Lecturer on Anatomy and Operative Surgery at Paris. Translated and Corrected by J. Pancoast, M.D. This day received by CARTER, HENDEE & BABCOCK. May 10.

THOMSON ON INFLAMMATION. This day received by CARTER, HENDEE & BABCOCK, Lectures on Inflammation, exhibiting a View of the General Doctrines, Pathological and Practical, of Medical Surgery. By John Thomson, M.D., F.R.S.E., Professor of Surgery to the Royal College, &c. 2d American from the last London Edition. May 10.

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